

Mrs. Holman has made significant contributions to society. She joined Chappelle Station African Methodist Episcopal Church in January of 1930, and was appointed to Stewardess Board Number E, where she served for 64 years before retiring in January 1994. In this capacity she also served as a Class Leader.

In July of 1930, Mrs. Holman began working with the Church's Missionaries, and served as President of the Missionary Society for 57 years. Her community involvement extended to serving as the Director of the Church's Young People's Division and as a Trustee of Allen University. She also served as President and Treasurer of the Zoie Social Club.

Reaching out to the widows of her community, she formed the Widows Club, and she still attends the Quadrennial Conventions of the Women's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church. In addition to her extensive church and community involvements, Mrs. Holman has maintained tireless devotion to her family, raising her five grandchildren after the death of her son.

Her untiring efforts have not gone unrecognized by her peers and associates. Mrs. Holman has received numerous awards and honors for her active membership in her church and her public service. She was named Woman of the Year by Chappelle Memorial A.M.E. Church in 1995. In May of 2000 the Columbia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented her with the Golden Years Award. In addition to these distinctions, she has been selected as Mother of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of this venerable woman on her 100th birthday. She continues to blaze a trail in her community through Christian service. She remains a positive influence to future generations, and I wish her happy birthday and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 13 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING STELLA WELLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Stella Wells. On February 17, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Stella, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Stella was born in 1905 in the town of Beech Grove, Arkansas. There, in 1922 under the same roof where she was born, she married farmer Charles Wells. Stella and husband Charley had six sons, 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-great-grand-

children. She has a total of 91 living descendants. The two enjoyed a marriage of 54 years.

Stella is a longtime resident of Genesee County. She originally moved to Michigan for a short time in the early 50's and later Stella and Charley moved back to become permanent residents in 1974.

Stella is currently the oldest living member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4087 of Davison. She is also a member of Harmony Baptist Church of Burton as well as Holly Grove Baptist Church of Beech Grove, Arkansas. Along with her many roles in the community, her greatest is as a beloved mother.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Stella Wells for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is an extremely important conversation on the future of Social Security. Unfortunately, it is soured by the sharp rhetoric of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We simply cannot allow for misleading analysis and flowery language to disguise the truth of this debate. Not only do our current and future retirees deserve better, but also our children and grandchildren, who will be most directly affected by this new proposal, deserve better.

Social Security is truly one of our greatest success stories, virtually eliminating poverty for the aged. While we all agree that important concerns about Social Security should be effectively addressed, I do not believe turning this matter into a crisis should force us to accept what would otherwise be unacceptable. The scenarios touted by the Administration and their Republican allies are better suited for a work of fiction, not a domestic policy debate. Manufacturing a crisis in order to force this ideological agenda on retirees is unacceptable. The \$11 trillion shortfall is a figure plucked out of thin air using fuzzy math based on voodoo economics. And finally, the Administration is selling semi-privatization of Social Security as the solution to all of our problems.

Let's not be fooled by hyperbole. The facts are indisputable and should not be misrepresented by the President or Members of Congress. Crisis? What crisis? If we do absolutely nothing to Social Security, the Trust Fund will be able to pay out 100 percent of benefits for the next 50 years. The real, worst-case scenario shortfall based on a 75-year projection used by the economists at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) would be between \$2 trillion to \$3.7 trillion. While these numbers require our undivided attention, privatizing part of Social Security is not the solution. The President's plan to create private retirement accounts will cost at least \$2 trillion to implement, equivalent to the entire 75-year shortfall predicted by the CBO. In addition, most proponents of semi-privatization admit that the creation of these accounts will not avoid a shortfall on their own merits. In order to

achieve its goal, the Administration is also recommending the guaranteed benefits be cut by as much as 40 percent. This cut is in addition to the diversion of almost a third of Social Security funds to private accounts.

Social Security is the core of old-age support and was intended as an income supplement and a crucial safety net for seniors, not a money making scheme. We must preserve Social Security through sound fiscal discipline and legitimate policy adjustments to meet the demands of future generations. I believe that the Administration should immediately strengthen Social Security by submitting to Congress a balanced budget. If not a balanced budget this year, then the Administration should submit at least a plan or announced course of action on achieving a balanced budget. I also call on the President to reevaluate his tax cut proposal. Making the tax cuts permanent will cost as much as 3 to 5 times the cost of the Social Security shortfall. These fiscally responsible, common sense proposals will help protect Social Security and can be done now. Once these steps are taken we can more responsibly solve any unaddressed concerns. Instead of weakening Social Security I believe that it should be strengthened and made more secure ensuring its success for generations to come. We cannot turn Social Security into Social Insecurity.

SIKHS OBSERVE INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY AS DAY OF BETRAYAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday, January 26, was India's Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of their constitution. It is a very important day in India's calendar. The Indian constitution is supposed to guarantee freedom for everyone and ensure everyone full human rights and democratic freedoms. However, in practice, it has not worked that way in the 58 years that India has been independent. I salute the ideals of the Indian constitution, but I cannot urge India strongly enough to start living up to them.

Independent India has been no picnic for the minorities of India. They have suffered severe repression. Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others have suffered greatly at the hands of democratic, secular India. That is why Sikhs in Washington, London, and even Amritsar protested on Republic Day. In Amritsar, the Sikh organization Dal Khalsa hoisted the Sikh flag and distributed flyers saying that the Indian flag "is not our flag" and the Indian constitution "is not our constitution." No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Over a quarter of a million Sikh have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, along with over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and still more Christians elsewhere. Priests have been murdered throughout the country, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been vandalized. By now, the burning death of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons and the beating of missionary Joseph Cooper are well known. In recent days, evangelist Benny Hinn